

House Resolution 257

By: Representative Sims of the 169th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Douglas-Coffee County Economic Development
2 Authority and more than 50 years of successful economic planning and development in
3 Douglas-Coffee County; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in 1953, the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce made a
5 commitment to develop a plan to bring industry to Douglas County, Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, two years later, Douglas became one of only two southern cities awarded a
7 federal urban renewal grant, which included the designation of more than 200 acres of land
8 for industrial development; and

9 WHEREAS, industrial development continued to be a vital part of the overall plan for the
10 City of Douglas and Coffee County, and a ground breaking was held for an urban renewal
11 project in the City of Douglas in 1957; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. Wendell Sears, a member of the Industrial Development
13 Committee, made a motion for an effort to raise \$200,000 in support of industrial
14 development; and

15 WHEREAS, that same year, County Commissioner Dan Jardine chaired a capital campaign
16 to raise funds for industrial development and succeeded in raising \$250,000 within a
17 two-week period from school children, factory workers, small business owners, and business
18 leaders throughout the community; and

19 WHEREAS, these funds were used for construction of a facility for Swift & Company,
20 which brought 200 new jobs to Coffee County and the region and provided for a continuous
21 local poultry operation for more than 50 years, which now operates as Pilgrim's Pride with
22 more than 800 employees; and

23 WHEREAS, a commitment to economic growth through industrial development allowed
24 existing local industries to prosper and for the recruitment of new diverse industries to Coffee
25 County, including Fleetwood Enterprises, Williams Institutional Foods, and Crider Poultry
26 (now Wayne Farms), which have celebrated more than 50 years of continuous operations in
27 Coffee County; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. Elie Holton ran for mayor on the platform of establishing an
29 Industrial Development Authority, and the citizens of the City of Douglas and Coffee County
30 voted to support industrial development through an increase in their millage rate; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1959, State Representative Tom Fellows introduced legislation calling for
32 the creation of the Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority to develop and promote
33 industry within the City of Douglas and Coffee County, which was adopted by the General
34 Assembly of Georgia through a constitutional amendment; and

35 WHEREAS, for 50 years, the City of Douglas, Coffee County, the Douglas-Coffee County
36 Chamber of Commerce, the Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority, and the citizens
37 of Coffee County have embraced a never-ending commitment to partnership and
38 collaboration for the good of industrial development and the retention and recruitment of
39 jobs; and

40 WHEREAS, it is evident that Douglas-Coffee County has prospered from the work of the
41 authority and has become known as a leader in rural economic development throughout the
42 State of Georgia and the nation.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body recognize the Douglas-Coffee County Economic Development
45 Authority and its members for the significant programs and projects supporting economic
46 development, job retention, and job growth for the community, the region, and the State of
47 Georgia and congratulate Douglas-Coffee County on 50 years of leadership and partnership
48 for economic development.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
50 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Douglas-Coffee County
51 Economic Development Authority.